

[0054] FIG. 2 is a plan view illustrating essential parts of a PCB 10a according to an example embodiment.

[0055] Referring to FIG. 2, the PCB 10a includes a base substrate 12 and a connection line 20 formed on the base substrate 12. The base substrate 12 included in the PCB 10a may include the bending region BR having edges 12E on both sides thereof and mounting regions DR extending from both ends of the bending region BR.

[0056] The bending region BR is a portion of the PCB 10a corresponding to a portion of the electronic apparatus 1 (see FIG. 1) including the PCB 10a that is repeatedly bent. The bending region BR is a part of the base substrate 12, and thus the edges 12E of the bending region BR may also be the edges 12E of the base substrate 12.

[0057] Each or at least one of the mounting regions DR may include a device mounting portion 100R on which the device 100 (see FIG. 1) is mounted. The connection line 20 may extend to the device mounting portion 100R, and may be electrically connected to the device 100 (see FIG. 1) mounted on the device mounting portion 100R.

[0058] Although the mounting region DR extending from each or at least one of both ends of the bending region BR includes one device mounting portion 100R, the example embodiment is not limited thereto. A plurality of the device mounting portions 100R may be formed according to the number of the devices 100 (see FIG. 1) included in the electronic apparatus 1 (see FIG. 1), and in this case, the connection line 20 may connect one device mounting portion 100R and at least another device mounting portion 100R.

[0059] That is, although the connection line 20 crosses the bending region BR and connects the device mounting portions 100R of two mounting regions DR extending from both ends of the bending region BR from among various connection lines formed on the base substrate 12, the connection line 20 included in the electronic apparatus 1 may be designed and arranged in various ways (see FIG. 1). The number of the connection lines 20 that connect two device mounting portions 100R may vary according to a type of the device 100 (see FIG. 1) mounted on each device mounting portion 100R. Also, although each or one of both sides of the connection line 20 formed on the bending region BR is connected to one device mounting portion 100R, the example embodiment is not limited thereto and the connection line 20 formed on the bending region BR may be designed to extend and be connected to the mounting region DR in various ways.

[0060] When the connection line 20 is connected to the device mounting portion 100R, the connection line 20 extends into the device mounting portion 100R in order to be electrically connected to the device 100 mounted on the device mounting portion 100R. Accordingly, an arrangement and a shape of the connection line 20 in the device mounting portion 100R may vary according to the device 100 mounted on the device mounting portion 100R, and thus the arrangement and the shape of the connection line 20 in the device mounting portion 100R are not shown.

[0061] Although the connection line 20 may be formed on a top surface, a bottom surface, or both the top surface and the bottom surface of the base substrate 12, the example embodiment is not limited thereto and the connection line 20 may be formed in the base substrate 12.

[0062] The base substrate 12 may include an opening 30a formed in the bending region BR. The opening 30a may be

formed adjacent to each or at least one of both edges 12E of the bending region BR. For example, the opening 30a may be formed to contact each or at least one of both edges 12E of the bending region BR. The openings 30a adjacent to both edges 12E of the bending region BR may face each other. The openings 30a adjacent to both edges 12E of the bending region BR may be substantially symmetric about a central line between both edges 12E of the bending region BR. The opening 30a may be located on a virtual bending central line BC that connects both edges 12E of the bending region BR.

[0063] The virtual bending central line BC refers to a virtual line that connects portions of the bending region BR on which the largest deformation, that is, the largest compression and/or tension, of the PCB 10a occurs when the electronic apparatus 1 (see FIG. 1) including the PCB 10a is repeatedly bent during use.

[0064] The opening 30a may be recessed from each or at least one of both edges 12E of the base substrate 12, that is, from each or at least one of both edges 12E of the bending region BR. A boundary of the opening 30a may have an arc shape. The boundary of the opening 30a may have, for example, an arc shape with an angle of about 180° or less. When the boundary of the opening 30a has an arc shape, it means that the boundary of the opening 30a on the top surface or the bottom surface of the base substrate 12 has an arc shape. That is, the boundary of the opening 30a may have an arc shape on a side surface of the base substrate 12.

[0065] A guard pattern 32a may be formed along the boundary of the opening 30a on the top surface and/or the bottom surface of the base substrate 12. The guard pattern 32a may have a substantially constant width along the boundary of the opening 30a.

[0066] The guard pattern 32a may be formed of or include a material that is different from the material of the base substrate 12. The guard pattern 32a may be formed of or include, but is not limited to, the same material as the material of the connection line 20. The guard pattern 32a may be formed of or include, for example, an ED copper foil, an RA copper foil, a stainless steel foil, an aluminum foil, an ultra-thin copper foil, sputtered copper, or a copper alloy.

[0067] When an electronic apparatus 1 including a PCB is repeatedly bent, cracks may occur on a portion of the PCB on which stress caused by fatigue is concentrated. Also, the cracks may propagate into a base substrate to short a connection line, thereby reducing the reliability of the electronic apparatus.

[0068] However, in the PCB 10a according to the example embodiment, since the opening 30a is formed along each or at least one of both edge 12E on the virtual bending central line BC on which stress caused by fatigue is concentrated, stress may be distributed to the boundary of the opening 30a, thereby substantially preventing cracks from occurring. Accordingly, the connection line 20 may be substantially prevented from being shorted, thereby improving the reliability of the electronic apparatus 1 including the PCB 10a.

[0069] Also, since the guard pattern 32a that is formed of or include a material that is different from the material of the base substrate 12 is formed on the top surface and/or the bottom surface of the base substrate 12 along the boundary of the opening 30a, even when cracks occur on a portion of the base substrate 12, the cracks may be substantially